The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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STOCK SELLING TO EMPLOYES IS FIRST-CLASS MONEY MAKER

Corporations are awakening to the buying power of workers, and brokers and financial houses are facing new competition.

The corporations are selling their stocks and bonds direct to employes and are saving the costly percentages and premiums formerly paid to fiscal agents.

Only recently a large electrical corporation in the east sold $5,000,000 of stock to employes.

A saving of at least $500,000 brokerage charges was effected by this method, as 10 per cent is practically the minimum charge of financial houses when they take over stock issues in bulk and dispose of same to the public.

The half million dollars that is saved is carefully concealed from the public gaze. No mention is made of it, as the public is led to believe the stock is sold to employes because of lofty humanitarianism.

Publicity of this snug nest egg would remove the gloss from the corporation's publicity stuff on how it loves its employes.

This stock-selling method is a first-class business venture. It is more economical than letting brokers float the issue at a charge of 10 per cent and up.

When the stock is sold to employes there is no commission charge. This means a minimum saving to the corporation of at least $100,000 on every $1,000,000 stock issue.

Other advantages to the corporation are mainly psychological. For a time this stock ownership may affect the judgment of some workers who imagine they are capitalists because they own two or three shares of stock.

In time, however, these workers will realize that the interest they receive averages, year by year, little more than they would receive in a savings bank or from a Liberty bond.

They will also realize that their small stock ownership is used by the corporation to continue the fiction that they have a voice in affairs; that they are part owners of the plant.

They will also note the clever and subtle propaganda that they must be satisfied with wages and working conditions, as this means greater interest on their stock.

For instance: If a worker owns three $100 shares of stock that pays 7 per cent, he receives $21 a year interest. This is $9 a year, or 75 cents a month more than if he put that money in a savings bank or a Liberty bond.

And for this extra 75 cents a month the worker must be satisfied with low wages, poor working conditions and keep away from trade unions.

This is what some people call "industrial relations" and "industrial democracy."

These workers will eventually awaken to the price they are paying for worshipping the anti-union employer's shibboleth.

Another claim industriously peddled among these workers is that as they save and buy stock they will eventually own the corporation.

The answer to this fiction is that printing presses can produce stock blanks faster than workers can buy them.

It is not reasonable to suppose that a corporation that denies workers the right to join a trade union will voluntarily cease exploiting these workers.

In very rare instances this is done by an individual employer, but not by a corporation with its absentee ownership that hungers for profits.

The most significant feature of selling stock to employes is that it is only practiced by anti-union concerns.

And the more intense the corporation is in its anti-unionism, the more intense it is in stock selling to employes, and the more it thunders in the public press on its love for these employes.

Trade unions and employers who recognize trade unions both have definite ideas on democracy in industry, but they neither delude themselves or the public.

WOMEN'S MINIMUM WAGE LAW ANNULLED BY U. S. HIGH COURT

Washington, April 14.—By a vote of 5 to 3 the United States supreme court has declared the District of Columbia women's minimum wage law unconstitutional. The decision is a vital blow to this system, which has been accepted by 14 states.

The majority opinion was delivered by Justice Sutherland, and the minority opinion by Chief Justice Taft. The latter was supported by Justice Sanford and Justice Holmes.

Justice Brandeis took no part in the case because he acted as counsel in defense of the Oregon minimum wage law several years ago.

The majority opinion emphasized the right of private contract. These five justices seemed alarmed that the liberties of 110,000,000 people would become involved if working women are not permitted to accept a wage lower than will provide a decent living.

This freedom of contract claim by the majority was effectively answered by the minority:

> "Legislatures, in limiting freedom of contract between employer and employed by a minimum wage, proceed on the assumption that employes, in the class receiving less pay, are not upon a full level of equality of choice with their employers, and by necessitous circumstances are prone to accept pretty much what is offered. They are peculiarly subject to the harsh and greedy employer."

The majority seemed hard pressed to defend an ancient political economy, for they presented the astonishing and unheard of proposition that if a minimum wage is legal, so is a maximum wage.

No one has ever before seriously referred to a maximum wage by law. The court ignored the theory upon which a minimum wage is based and why the police power of the state can be resorted to in this instance and not for a maximum wage.

That the court would use this parallel, which is unnoticed by the public press, indicates the befuddled economy that passes for law.

This befogged reasoning was again shown by the majority when it objected to the law because, they said, it forced the employer to pay a wage that did not consider whether the service rendered was equal to the amount paid. As the law gave employers the right to discharge any one they choose, it is hard to follow the court's point.

The minority insisted that if a minimum wage law is a denial of the right of contract, the same theory applies to law regulating hours, working conditions and other remedial legislation. To be logical, the majority would revert to sweat shop days.

"A restriction as to one is not any greater in essence than the other, and is of the same kind," said the minority, who reminded the majority that the right of contract was set aside in 1917 when the Oregon 10-hour law in private industry was upheld. This law applied to men, and was upheld on the ground that "the custom in our industries does not sanction a longer service than 10 hours per day."

In the same year the court refused by a tie vote—4 to 4—to annul the Oregon minimum wage law for women. In that case, as in the present one, Justice Brandeis took no part.

HERRIN CASES ENDED; PROSECUTOR SNARLS

Marion, Ill., April 14.—Following a verdict of "not guilty" in the second trial of alleged Herrin rioters, the 24 other cases have been quashed at the request of the prosecution. The accused proved alibis and discredited witnesses for the state.

State Attorney General Brundage took an especial interest in these cases and his assistant, Middlekauff, who aided the county attorney in the prosecution, snarled that there is no justice in Williamson county.

To Middlekauff's slur on the court and his cheap bid for sympathy from anti-union sources, Presiding Judge Hartwell replied:

"The prosecution were loud in their praise of the court until now. I admit Mr. Middlekauff's superiority in being able to make use of the newspapers. He tries his cases there better than in the court house. What he says will be accepted away from here and by a very few in this vicinity. The cases were nollied and he is going away, and he doesn't care much what he says or who he hurts, just so he can lay the blame on somebody for his failure to convict in the cases just tried. Nobody knows better than I do of the prejudice that exists all over the country growing out of these killings. I have not condoned, justified or excused these killings. I do not do so now. I tried my best to give both sides a fair trial. The prosecution were loud in their praise of the court until now."

The trials were the result of the killing of a score of strikebreakers and gun men by a mob of 5,000 persons at Herrin, this county, on the morning of June 22, 1922. The imported men were armed with machine guns and high power rifles. They assaulted citizens, became involved in hold ups, and closed one public highway. When they killed three unarmed miners the mob of citizens, with its defiance of law, followed.

GRAVE LABOR UNREST IS BRITISH PROBLEM

London, England, April 14.—This nation is confronted on all sides by strikes because of wage cuts and demands for longer hours. Building workers have been called upon to accept drastic wage reductions and longer hours. Agricultural workers in the vicinity of Norfolk have shown surprising solidarity, which is causing worry in government and other quarters. Pottery workers to the number of 60,000 are demanding a new contract, minus the demand for wage cuts, while the National Union of Railwaymen have given notice that they will not accept lower rates for shop work. Maritime workers are also involved, and thousands of jute workers have been locked out. Added to this situation is the unemployed army that shows no signs of decreasing.

TO PROBE PEONAGE.

Tallahassee, Fla., April 14.—The Florida legislature has voted to probe peonage in this state, following an expose of the death of Martin Talbert, a North Dakota youth, who was beaten to death in a convict camp.

The resolution passed by the house provides that "the speaker of the house immediately wire to the governor of North Dakota, assuring the citizens of North Dakota that 'the death of Talbert within our borders is deeply deplored' and that the facts alleged in regard to the causes of his death are being 'fully and completely investigated by the governor of the state of Florida, by the appropriate courts of the state of Florida, and by the legislature of Florida.'"

The death of Talbert has revealed the peonage system in all its viciousness. It has been customary for interested persons to make light of the whipping of convicts, but the records of the state department of agriculture, which has charge of the prisons, is now being looked into. It is shown that on the state prison farm, in the state and county road camps, and in the lumber camps and phosphate mine camps it is a practice for white and negro prisoners to be flogged.

CAN'T OPERATE BUSES

Austin, Texas, April 14.—Governor Neff has vetoed a bill authorizing street railways to operate motor buses in connection with their lines. He says the state's policy is to restrict private or quasi-public corporations to one specific purpose and bus lines would infringe on this policy unless benefits to the public were self-evident. He said the law would permit street car companies to strangle competition and ownership of independent bus lines.

ISSUE MORE STOCK.

New York, April 14.—Profits of the American woolen company are so enormous that more stock can be absorbed. The trust announces another issue of $10,000,000.

PROFITS REACH HIGH MARK

New York, April 14.—The Louisville & Nashville railroad reports a profit of $10,595,019 last year. This is the largest net earnings since 1918.

BUILDING BAN URGED IN ANTI-UNION WAR

Cleveland, Ohio, April 14.—The chamber of commerce committee on labor recommends a building boycott to destroy the building trade unions.

The committee says "the price is not too high" to establish anti-unionism in this industry. Business men are urged to develop a public opinion hostile to the unions.

The committee's action recalls the recent controversy between President Gompers and Newton D. Baker, former secretary of war and now president of the chamber of commerce. President Gompers defended the union shop against the indivdual bargaining theory.

The question of costs arose in the controversy, and President Gompers made this comment on the charge that organized labor is responsible for high costs in building:

"I say to you, and I think you know, that the building contractors of Cleveland are incapable of ascertaining, upon the basis of present records, anything even roughly approximating any change in per man production or in per man cost of operations. I am sure that the building contractors of Cleveland are, upon the average, no more advanced in methods than are employers throughout the country. After an exhaustive investigation the federal trade commission finds that no more than 10 per cent of the manufacturing and commercial institutions of the country know what are their costs of operation."

SHORTAGE IN LABOR IS LARGELY FICTION

New York, April 14.—With the adjournment of congress and the failure to secure free immigration, employers have abandoned their shortage-of-labor claim.

The national industrial conference board, representing a score of employers' organizations, states that there is not so great a labor shortage as is frequently supposed from current reports. The estimate is based on returns from more than 1,000 manufacturing establishments in all parts of the United States.

Goods Branded Falsely; Names Mean Nothing Now

New York, April 14.—How to prevent misleading names on commodities offered for sale was discussed by a committee of the American bar association.

Most of the linen now claimed to be manufactured in Belfast is made in the United States, it was stated.

The use of the name "Hudson seal" for articles made of the skins of muskrat, trimmed and dyed in perfect imitation of the genuine article, was declared to be one of the greatest frauds ever perpetrated by the fur industry. Rabbit skin is offered as "Baltic" and other varieties of seal. It was stated that mountain goat will be offered as ermine unless misrepresentation in this industry is halted.

It was declared that there is intentional commercial deception in many of the names selected for articles which had a first-class standing when first marketed. Members of the committee were agreed as to conditions but no action was taken.

The committee also considered a United States industrial court similar to Allen's "can't-strike" law, but concluded to postpone action.

HUGE LUMBER WASTES.

Washington, April 14.—For every 300 feet of lumber cut at sawmills in the United States, at least 700 feet are wasted in the woods or at the mills, O. M. Butler, representing the American forestry association, said at hearings before the senate reforestration committee.

Mr. Butler told the committee of a survey by the forestry association in a chair factory, where, he said, 56 per cent of the lumber had been wasted. A billion and a quarter feet also could be saved, he said, by chemical treatment of railroad ties to prevent decay.

The witness said mills find it unprofitable to ship low-priced timber over long distances. Freight rates are as high for poorer grades as for those of better quality.

Elimination of waste, coupled with proper government research work would reduce by one-fourth the amount of lumber now used, Mr. Butler said.

QUOTA LAW IS WORKABLE.

Washington, April 14.—The 3 per cent immigration law is workable, said W. W. Husband, commissioner general of immigration, in a speech before the civitan club. He said that during the past year the newer and less assimilable immigration from southern and eastern Europe has been checked, while the older type, from northern and western Europe, has increased.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Cleveland, April 14.—The Typographical union has made a two-year agreement with newspaper publishers in this city. Rates will be $49.50 a week for day work and $54.50 for night work.

ANTI-UNION WAR TALK DIDN'T ENTHUSE PUBLIC

Washington, April 14.—It is settled that the administraton party will not have an anti-union declaration in its party platform next year.

Attorney General Daugherty was quoted in the public press as favoring such a declaration. So was Dawes, a Chicago money lender, and numerous "sound business men," names not mentioned.

These kites were sent up in the hope that they would catch the popular breeze. The anti-union section of the public press cautiously nursed these "feelers" in the hope that the great public would respond. About that time President Gompers returned to his office from a siege of sickness, and his first utterance was to dare the anti-unionists to go through with their plan.

"I wonder who will be chosen as the Mussolini of American reaction?" said President Gompers, in discussing the matter with newspaper men in his office. "Liberty loving people will be glad to meet that issue. Probably those behind this American Fascisti movement also have Mussolini's conception of human rights and liberty. Mussolini was recently quoted as declaring that liberty is dead and that his cohorts must ride roughshod over the decomposed corpse of liberty."

This challenge to the anti-union scheme, together with a refusal of the public to respond, brought the Daugherty-Dawes' kite fluttering to the ground. There was not enough wind behind it to keep it afloat and the thing collapsed.

Now the public is gravely assured that the administration will have nothing to do with the anti-union proposal.

CORPORATION JUDGE IS AGAIN OVERRULED

Richmond, Va., April 14.—The federal circuit court of appeals has again overruled District Judge McClintic of West Virginia who recently enjoined miners from aiding a strike in that state and also ordered coal owners not to pay any money under the "check off" system, as some of these funds aided strikers.

Judge McClintic is ordered to suspent enforcement of his injunction pending decision by the higher court.

This is the second time the court of appeals has recently overruled McClintic. A few months ago he commanded Mingo miners to abandon a tent colony they were maintaining on leased land. Judge McClintic evidently figured that he could break the strike by driving the miners and their families out of the tents, and along the road sides. The federal court of appeals notified McClintic that the miners owned their tents, and he had no right to disturb them, as they were situated on leased land.

Union Carpenters to Vote On Home and Pension Plan

Indianapolis, April 14.—After long consideration on the question of establishing a home and a pension system, the general executive board of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners has submitted these propositions to the referendum:

"Shall the board of trustees be authorized to purchase land to be used for a home for the aged and infirm members of our organization, to be owned and controlled by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America?

"Shall the per capita to the general office be increased 10 cents per member per month, and be placed in a special fund for the 'home' and 'pension' purposes?"

A home and a pension fund have been discussed by the carpenters for years, and conventions have authorized general officers to study the proposals.

REJECT SMALL INCREASE

Concord, N. C., April 14.—The 5 per cent wage increase offer of Gaston textile mill owners was rejected at a meeting of the North Carolina and South Carolina council of textile unions. Delegates expressed appreciation for larger increases made elsewhere. James F. Barrett, editor of the Charlotte Herald, was elected president of the council. The unionization campaign in the Carolinas will be speeded up, and greater gains will be recorded among workers who are being told the story of trade unionism.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Washington, April 14.—After a four-days' strike organized painters in the nation's capital raised wages from $8 a day to $9 and secured a two-year agreement. The 44-hour week will be continued.

HUGE KODAK PROFITS

New York, April 14.—The Eastman kodak company reports a net profit last year, after depreciation and taxes, of $17,952,554. The previous year's profits were $14,105,861.

BACKWARD LOOKING STATESMAN SCORED

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, April 15.—Federal Prime Minister Bruce, successor of William Hughes, has declared for "a return to normal conditions," and receives this withering reply from the Australian Worker:

"Mr. Bruce, our flapperish prime minister, has announced his policy. He is going to get us 'back to normal conditions.'

"Not forward to better conditions than we have ever known, not straight on to a previously unattained prosperity, but 'back'—back to something we have left behind us.

"What a policy for a young man, who should be seething with a spirit of impetuous progress!

"Back—back! Like senile decay, that crawls and hobbles in the past!

"And this dandy of retrogressive instincts is the arbiter of Australia's destinies!

"Who would have thought such an anti-climax possible four years after the war that we were fervently assured would crown our sorrows and our sacrifices with a new world?

"We have at the head of our nation —a young nation, with its face to the rising sun—one who was born of that nation, one who is dowered himself with the wonderful gift of youth, and he tells us that he is going to lead us—backward!

"No more humiliating announcement could be imagined, coming from the lips of the leader of a democratic state.

"Hitherto reaction has always made a pretense of progressive intentions. For the first time in our history it candidly exposes its hand.

"Our young swell of a prime minister, with his hair parted down the middle, and spats on his feet, this Beau Brummell of politics, is fired with an ambition to lead us—back!"

PROPERTY WINS AGAIN, SAYS A. F. OF L. CHIEF

Washington, April 14.—"The court again ranges itself on the side of property," is the comment by President Gompers on the supreme court's invalidating the District of Columbia minimum wage law for women.

"Presumably the court followed what, in its mind, is a certain philosophy of government and a certain construction of the constitution," said President Gompers. "It is notable, however, that in practically every case of importance involving employment relations and the protection of humanity, the court ranges itself on the side of property and against humanity.

"The women wage earners of the District of Columbia are less favorably situated than women wage earners elsewhere. Not only are they less able to defend themselves on the economic field, but they are absolutely without means of defense on the political field. This is a situation peculiar to this voteless oasis.

"The supreme court has declared the child labor law unconstitutional, and this new decision, taking a proper and needed protection from women, is a logical next step in perfecting the doctrine that those who can not help themselves shall not be helped."

HIDING HUGE PROFITS.

New York, April 14.—The public service corporation of New Jersey will increase its preferred stock capitalization to 1,000,000 shares, having a par value of $100 each. The common stock will be increased to 2,000,000 shares, having no par value.

This increase will permit profits to be "spread" over a larger area, so public attention will not be reminded of these huge net earnings. Last year this corporation made a profit of $5,750,239 after all charges and interest were met.

TAX EXEMPTION IS LEGAL.

New York, April 14.—The tax exemption on dwellings, passed at a special session of the state legislature in 1920, is constitutional according to a decision by the appellate division of the supreme court. The law was passed because of a housing emergency. As a result millions of dollars were invested in buildings. Last March the law was declared unconstitutional, but this decision has been reversed.

LOCKOUT IS DEFEATED.

San Francisco, April 14.—Organized plasterers have defeated the attempt to deunionize this calling. The anti-union industrial association of this city joined with the contractors to place plastering on an anti-union basis, but the union plasterers refused to bargain as individuals.

OBJECT TO "NOSE BAGS."

Seattle, April 14.—"Nose bags," the term workers apply to cold lunches, caused a strike on the city's hydroelectric tunnel at Newhalem. The workers want warm food for this laborious work. They object to the cold lunches put up in paper bags.

RAILROADS SEE BOOM; DROP HARD LUCK STORY

New York, April 14.—At a meeting of the American railway association in this city plans were discussed to handle the largest volume of traffic in the history of the country. The boom is expected to be at its height in October when the output of farms, factories, mills and workshops will break all records.

The railroad managers made no mention of the usual poverty and hard luck story that of late has become associated with meetings of railroad managers and financiers.

There was nothing said about "the strangling of the transportation system" and the "destruction of initiative and indivdual effort." Instead, the railroad managers announce that since January 1, 1922, they have authorized $1,540,000,000 for improvements and equipment, to meet the growing demands of commerce. The money is being raised, said the railway association, "largely through borrowed money on the abiding faith in the fairness of the American people and a reliance on the continuance of the policy announced in the transportation act of 1920 as a measure of reasonable protection to investment in railroad property."

This sentiment is in contrast to previous declarations that the railroads have their backs to the wall. Now we are told that the "fairness of the American people" can be relied upon, and that the transportation act, with its guarantee of interest on investment, is satisfactory to the railroads.

CAR HAULED FOUR DAYS TO COVER A FEW MILES

New York, April 14.—To force railroads to join with the city in developing a unified terminal system port authorities exposed some boasted efficiency of railroads.

It was shown how a tank car filled with linseed oil routed from Undercliff, N. J., to Bayonne, N. J., a distance of 13½ miles, traveled 179½ miles and took four days to reach its destination. The car traveled through several New Jersey cities, and also Easton, Pa., before reaching Bayonne.

In reply to the claim of railroad attorneys that this case is exceptional, engineers said these instances could be cited without number.

It was also shown that a car shipped from Undercliff to Keansburg, N. J., a distance of 42 miles, traveled 187 miles. Still another example was a car shipped from one part of Jersey City to another part of the same city, a distance of four miles. The car was routed so that it traveled 54 miles and took four days for the journey.

General George W. Goethals, consulting engineer, testified that the unification plan would be much less expensive and much more efficient. It developed that three railroads have refused to give any information to the authorities to aid them in the proposed efficiency scheme.

POWER BRINGS RESPECT.

Charlotte, N. C., April 14.—The old adage that power brings respect is again verified in the Carolinas, where textile workers are engaged in a unionization campaign. A few years ago no public official or newspaper paid any attention to these workers. They were loked upon as very desirable assets to a community, providing they were "contented."

Of late, however, the textile worker is being noticed. These men and women are organizing. They are acquiring power. Their officials, under direction of the United Textile Workers, are making public the profits of textile mills, and citizens throughout the Carolinas are having their eyes opened as a result of the aggressiveness of these workers. Newspaper editors have also opened their eyes. They have discovered a new force in the community and are now engaged in the pleasing task of giving advice. When the textile workers were unorganized they were ignored. Now they are told the beauties of the Golden Rule and the blessedness of meeting their employers "in the proper spirit."

The textile workers note these changed attitudes, which are the best proof that they are on the right road when they join a trade union.

WIN FREE TEXT BOOKS

Chattanooga, Tenn., April 14.—With the signing of the bill by the governor, local trade unionists have won their fight for free text books. The local press was against the proposal, and strong influences were brought to bear upon the local delegation in the legislature to sidetrack the bill, it is stated.

The bill is not only a distinct advantage to labor but, it is another proof of labor's power when united.

LOW WAGE ON FARMS.

Washington, April 14.—Laborers on farms throughout the United States now receive an average wage of $41.70 a month without board, according to an investigation that has been conducted by the department of agriculture.

GUARD U. S. EMPLOYES IS ENGINEERS' PLEA

New York, April 14.—The United States government sanctions working conditions that would not be tolerated by private employers, declare the federated American engineering societies in an appeal for a federal safety program. Congress is asked to enact safety legislation providing for the safe construction and equipment of buildings, regular inspection of conditions and the training of employes to lessen accidents.

"The government should, in its industrial plants, set an example to private employers by providing for its own employes working conditions which are safe, hygienic and sanitary," says the statement.

"Although the United States employes' compensation commission is now expending approximately $3,000,000 per annum to allievate the results of industrial accidents, it has no authority to take action of a preventable nature which might obviate the necessity for this expenditure for the loss of life and limb.

"Safe methods of practice in industry represent one way to eliminate waste of human life and material in manufacturing and productive processes, and it is a proper function of the state to safeguard the lives, the limbs and the health of those engaged in industry and gainful occupations."

LOCKOUT PROVES COSTLY TO EASTERN RAILROADS

New York, April 14.—The Delaware & Hudson railroad and the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad make a gloomy report to their stockholders. President Loree of the former road reports a deficit of $476,000 last year, as against a net profit of $4,937,452 the previous year. This road has been one of the leaders against railroad shop men and its union-smashing venture changed a net profit of nearly $5,000,000 in 1921 to a deficit of $476,000 in 1922.

Similar losses are also reported by President Pearson of the New Haven, a road that has been used as a foot-ball first by frenzied financiers and now by union smashers, who report a deficit last year of $4,865,767.

This road is another leader in the shop men's lockout. That this policy is responsible for present conditions on the New Haven is indicated by President Pearson's statement that the lockout has increased operating expenses, and that "at the present time there is an excess of substantially 80 locomotives in need of repairs beyond the average of past year."

With this record of incompetency and union smashing, President Pearson includes in his report the usual lamentation on "regulatory restraints" and the "campaigns of misrepresentation and unfair attacks being conducted against the railroads."

FILCHED IN STOCK DEALS.

Washington, April 14.—Government officials state that oil stock promoters operating in Texas during the last five years have filched $100,000,000 from the public. Postmaster General New states that companies and syndicates have been organized, run their course and passed away by hundreds during the past five years, leaving approximately 500,000 stockholders, scattered throughout the United States to mourn the disappearance of their hard-earned dollars.

These cases are hard to prosecute, because it is necessary to produce evidence of intent to defraud. The concerns operate as common law trusts, which empower them to handle the money of investors as they please without question from any authority.

CAN SUPPLY GAS TANKS.

Washington, April 14.—The United States supreme court has ruled that oil companies wholesaling gasoline can compel retailers handling their pumps to use only their gasoline.

The decision is a blow to the federal trade commission, which held that these agreements were a violation of fair business practices.

BUILDING WAGES UP.

Pittsburgh, Pa., April 14.—Wage increases that range from 10 to 25 cents an hour have been secured by several building crafts in this city.

DEFEAT WAGE PROBE

Columbus, Ohio, April 14.—The state senate has rejected a proposal to create a fact-finding commission to investigate minimum wages.

TRUST'S LOW WAGE IS RAISED 4 CENTS

New York, April 14.—With a blare of trumpets, the steel trust announces a wage increase of 11 per cent to its "common" labor. This is an increase of 4 cents an hour, or from 36 cents to 40 cents. Last year the trust made a profit of $39,653,455, after all charges and interest were paid.

In the trust's official announcement no mention is made of the low wage paid this class of workers, but emphasis is placed on the 11 per cent, which sounds better to those who have visions that steel trust labor is paid $7 and $8 a day.

The trust's policy will be accepted by other mills throughout the country. These corporations bemoan the shortage of labor, and insist that they have free access to the Balkans and eastern Europe, the source of the cheapest white labor in the world, and which is willing to work for 36 cents an hour.

Mill owners have been forced to raise wages even to 40 cents to hold their labor. Almost everywhere else this grade of labor is receiving from 55 cents an hour up.

The reason for the 10, 11 and 12 hour day in the trust's mill is again shown. Workers can not live on a wage of $3.60 for a 10-hour day, and they are forced to work longer hours to receive a living wage.

With fine irony Judge Gary has been quoted in the public press as declaring that the 12-hour day is enforced in the trust mills "because the workers demand it."

COURT GOES BACKWARD DECLARES LABOR WOMAN

Washington, April 14.—"The supreme court could not have gone backward more decisively," said Miss Ethel Smith, legislative secretary of the national women's trade union league, in referring to the outlawing of the District of Columbia women's minimum wage law. Miss Smith is also the labor representative on the minimum wage board that was created by the law. She intimated that the league would call a conference to discuss the situation.

"The women of the country have seen two child labor laws invalidated, and now the minimum wage laws for women, which they have worked for nearly 20 years to put upon the statute books of 14 states and are still working for in other states," said Miss Smith.

"Their other recent statute, the Sheppard-Towner act, is also awaiting a decision from this same supreme court, with the least possible encouragement, now that the court, with its new personnel, has added another decision which leaves out of consideration the social point of view, the public interest, and, in fact, the human element. 'In principle there can be no difference between the case of selling labor and the case of selling goods,' says Justice Sutherland and his four associates of the majority.

"By that proclamation the highest court in the land again puts human labor on the basis of a commodity, and the labor contract on the basis of barter and sale. It could not well have gone backward more decisively."

FOOD PRICES UP.

Washington, April 14.—For the year period, March 15, 1922, to March 15, 1923, increases in food costs were reported from 23 cities, says the United States bureau of statistics. Cleveland and Portland, Maine, led with 6 per cent. Boston, Manchester, and New Haven reported 5 per cent; Denver, Little Rock, Newark, and Rochester, 4 per cent; Baltimore, Fall River, Minneapolis, and Philadelphia, 3 per cent; Columbus, Dallas, Louisville, and Washington, D. C., 2 per cent; Jacksonville, Richmond, St. Paul, Salt Lake City, Scranton, and Seattle, 1 per cent; New Orleans, less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

WANT MORE IMMIGRANTS

Washington, April 14.—Increased immigration by indirect methods is recommended by a committee of the chamber of commerce of the United States, which wants an additional 2 per cent admitted when this is desirable in the judgment of the president of the United States.

OPPOSE STATE COSSACKS.

Springfield, Ill., April 14.—Organized labor is opposing the state cossack bill, pending in the state legislature. The workers show that under this scheme political power in Illinois would be shifted to an irresponsible group of legalized gun men.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Fort Madison, Iowa, April 14.—The annual convention of the state federation of labor will be held in this city beginning Tuesday, May 15.